

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 AID-20 IGA-02

IO-13 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

EB-11 AGR-20 FDRE-00 OMB-01 PC-04 COME-00 TRSE-00

/152 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:RKSHERWOOD:BA

7/20/73 X-22637

APPROVED BY AF-DAVID D. NEWSOM

AF/N:MR. MONTVILLE (INFO)

AFR/CWR:MR. SPENCER

E:MR. CASEY

S/S:MR. GAMMON

----- 031061

R 231642Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, OVIP, ML, SG, MR

SUBJ: OMVS: KEITA AND OULD AMAR VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: BAMAKO 2166, 2162; DAKAR 2924

1. OMVS DELEGATION MET ON JULY 18 WITH UNDER SECRETARY CASEY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM. TALKS WITH AID/W BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

2. MINISTER KEITA STRESSING IMPORTANCE OMVS ATTACHES TO CONTACTS WITH HIGH LEVEL US OFFICIALS, DESCRIBED OMVS PROJECT BRIEFLY TO UNDER SECRETARY AND THANKED HIM ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENTS OF OMVS MEMBER STATES FOR THE

EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE US HAS PROVIDED IN DROUGHT EMERGENCY. KEITA ASKED FOR OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OMVS, AND POINTED OUT THAT HARNESSING THE SENEGAL RIVER BASIN SHOULD PROVIDE WATER AND FOOD SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT FUTURE RECURRENCE OF TRAGIC EFFECTS OF DROUGHT. UNDER SECRETARY STATED WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT AND NOTED THAT PRESIDENT IN HIS LETTER TO PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA OF MAY 17 HAD EXPRESSED US INTEREST IN HELPING WITHIN MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL. IN RESPONSE TO UNDER SECRETARY'S QUESTION MINISTER KEITA SAID THAT UNDP SYNTHESIS OF THE MANY PAST OMVS STUDIES SHOULD BE READY NO LATER THAN END OF FIRST QUARTER OF 1974. KEITA ALSO SOUGHT US SUPPORT FOR OMVS PROJECTS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

3. IN MEETING WITH NEWSOM KEITA REVIEWED BRIEFLY SITUATION CREATED BY THE DROUGHT IN OMVS COUNTRIES AND EMPHASIZED HOW DROUGHT POINTS UP IMPORTANCE OF RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT. KEITA SAID DELEGATION WAS PLEASED WITH TALKS THEY HAD HAD THUS FAR AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT OMVS REQUESTS.

4. NEWSOM NOTED THAT DROUGHT IS MAJOR TRAGEDY WHICH HAS DRAWN ATTENTION OF, AND STRUCK CONSCIENCE OF, AMERICAN PEOPLE. NEWSOM SAID THAT US GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN POSITION AT THIS TIME TO GIVE PRECISE ANSWER ON OUR ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF SENEGAL RIVER BASIN, IN PART BECAUSE WE DO NOT YET HAVE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION FROM CONGRESS. AT THIS POINT, NEWSOM SAID, IT APPEARS THERE WILL BE AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BUT, DESPITE THE FACT WE ARE A RICH COUNTRY, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE LIMIT ON RESOURCES WHICH WE CAN COMMAND IN ASSISTING OTHERS. NEWSOM REFERRED TO PRESENT RELATIONSHIP THROUGH ADO STAFF IN DAKAR AS EVIDENCE OUR INTEREST IN OMVS AND REGIONAL PROBLEMS WEST AFRICA.

5. NEWSOM SAID WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION OF THE SAHEL. HE REFERRED TO A BEGINNING IN THIS DIRECTION IN UN CONFERENCE IN GENEVA ON JUNE 29.

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6. KEITA SAID HE WAS REASSURED BY NEWSOM'S INTEREST AND HOPED FOR CONCRETE EXPRESSION OF US INTENTIONS TOWARD OMVS. HE NOTED THAT UNDP SHOULD COMPLETE SYNTHESIS OF OMVS PROJECTS WITHIN MONTHS AND HOPED US WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

7. NEWSOM ASKED IF IBRD WAS BEING CONSULTED. HE NOTED THAT THE POSITION TAKEN BY IBRD REGARDING MAJOR CAPITAL

PROJECTS IS IMPORTANT TO USG AND AID/W IN DETERMINING US ROLE. MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BANK. KEITA REPLIED HE WAS SOMEWHAT DISQUIETED BY THOUGHT THAT USG RELIES HEAVILY ON BANK'S VIEWS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IBRD'S APPROACH TO MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT DID NOT PLACE SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS ON BENEFITS TO POPULATION AFFECTED BY PROJECTS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT WHEN SEVERAL EXPERTS ASSESS CAPITAL PROJECT THERE ARE SEVERAL JUDGMENTS, MANY OF THEM WIDELY DIFFERING. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SUCH AS US COULD SEE PROBLEMS OF OMVS THROUGH EYES OF ITS PEOPLE NOT NECESSARILY THROUGH EYES OF BANKERS. HE SAID HE HAD COME TO PUT THIS PROBLEM TO US FRANKLY, WITHIN POLITICAL FRAMEWORK, AND WAS APPEALING TO UNITED STATES AS REAL FRIEND.

8. NEWSOM STRESSED TO KEITA IMPORTANCE IN OUR VIEW OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT TAKING ACTIVE ROLE IN ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS CONCERNED WITH THEIR PROBLEMS. HE NOTED THAT ONLY TWO OF SAHELIAN STATES HAD BEEN REPRESENTED AT JUNE 29 MEETING IN GENEVA. CONTINUING HE SAID THAT FOR CERTAIN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS US CAN AND DOES DECIDE ON ITS PARTICIPATION ON BILATERAL BASIS, WHILE FOR LARGE PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF A REGIONAL NATURE, WE PREFER TO SEE ACTION WITHIN MULTI-DONOR CONTEXT. HE CONCLUDED THAT WHEN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION PASSED BY CONGRESS, AND UNDP SYNTHESIS IN HAND WE WILL SEE WHAT OUR ROLE WILL BE IN OMVS' PROJECT.

9. KEITA CONCLUDED WITH FINAL PLEA FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR NEWSOM'S SYMPATHY AND FRANKNESS.

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10. COMMENT: FROM POINT OF VIEW PRESENTATION OF OMVS APPEAL TO SENIOR US OFFICIALS VISIT WAS SUCCESS. ITS TIMING WAS SUCH AS TO PRECLUDE ANY COMMITMENT FROM US, BUT IT APPEARED TO SERVE EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE FOR KEITA AND OULD AMAR, AND LAID GROUNDWORK FOR OUR CAREFUL REVIEW OF OMVS PROJECTS WHEN UNDP SYNTHESIS IN HAND. ROGERS

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